

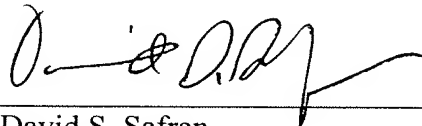
REMARKS

By the above actions, claims 1, 6 and 18 have been amended and claim 5 canceled. In view of these actions and the following remarks, further consideration of this application is requested.

At the outset, it is noted that, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 5-9, claim 1 has been amended so as to constitute claim 5 rewritten in independent, but otherwise unchanged form, with claim 5 being canceled and the dependency of claim 6 changed from claim 5 to claim 1 as a result. Thus, allowance of claim 1 and those claims dependent therefrom is in order and is requested. However, since the claims from which these claims depend are believed to be equally patentable for the reasons set forth below, no action is being taken at this time to place this claims in independent form. Furthermore, method claim 10 has been amended to recited methods steps corresponding to the allowable features of claim 6 which the Examiner indicated were not found in the prior art. As a result, claim 10 and those claims dependent therefrom should also be in condition for allowance and action to that effect is now requested.

In view of the above noted actions, the outstanding prior art rejections have been rendered moot and should be withdrawn, along with approval of this application for issuance as a patent. While this application should now be in condition for allowance, in the event that any issues should remain after consideration of this response which could be addressed through discussions with the undersigned, then the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



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